has been stated that a large number of protected animals were slaughtered for feast;

(b) whether poaching of deer is becoming a common feature and a film star of Bombay was also caught recently for killing the animal in Jodhpur; and

(c) if so, the stringent measures Government propose to take against poachers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Incidents of poaching of deer come to the notice of this Ministry from time to time. In one of the incidents cine stars have also been caught in Jodhpur for killing Black Bucks.

(c) Cases have been filed against the offenders under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Institutional Arrangements for Environmental Protection

636. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any institutional arrangements for environmental protection measures have been firmed up with the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The Government in its efforts to firm up institutional arrangements with the State Governments has delegated, in a phased manner, limited powers under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to all the State Governments/Union Territories and to the State Pollution Control Boards/Committees constituted under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 including other State agencies for the protection of environment. The State Pollution Control Boards/Committees also have powers defined in the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

The State Pollution Control Boards/ Committees have also been provided financial assistance under the World Bank projects and through cess collected under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977 for institutional strengthening and carrying out various pollution prevention and control activities.

Survey of Velligonda Project

637. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh requested the Union Government for clearance for conducting survey of Velligonda Project to utilise surplus waters of Krishna river;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely date by which clearance to conduct the survey would be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal of Government of Andhra Pradesh for conducting survey of Velligonda Project under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 was received by this Ministry on 20.1.1998.

(c) After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government, the Central Government has rejected it on merit on 10.7.98.

Elephants killed by Electricity Lines in Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary

638. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the forest power lines killed two elephants in Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken to instruct Tamil Nadu Electricity Board to raise the electricity lines to a safe height?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 15.9.1998 an adult

female elephant and a male calf elephant were found electrocuted in Parambikulam Sanctuary, Kerala. The electrocution was due to the low lying high tension overhead powerline on the right side of Anappaddy-Thunkkadavu Road inside the sanctuary. The power line is maintained by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) as part of the inter-State Parambikulam-Aliyar Project.

(c) The electricity lines passing through the sanctuary area were jointly inspected by the TNEB and the Sanctuary Staff, who identified the points where the lines are below the stipulated height of 7.1 metres. A list of such points was handed over to the TNEB and a meeting was also held between the sanctuary and TNEB officials on 20.9.1998 for rectifying all the sagging power lines and raising them to the stipulated height.

Environmental clearance for Hydro Power Plant at Nagarjuna Sagar Tail Pond Dam

639. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of EVNIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has proposed construction of 2x25MW Hydro Power Generation Plant at Nagarjuna Sagar Tail Pond Dam.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the delay in grant of clearance by the Ministry; and

(d) likely date by which the proposal will be cleared by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Andhra Pradesh proposes to set up a 2x25MW Hydro Power Generation Plant which involves submergence of 113 hectares of forest land in tiger valley.

(c) and (d) The proposal for diversion of 113 hec. forest land has been rejected on 01.01.1997 under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. On a request made by the State Government, the proposal is being reviewed by a committee of wild life experts. A decision will be taken after the receipt of the report of the said committee.

वायु प्रदूषण का खतरा

640. **श्री कपिल सिब्बल:**
श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया:

क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि विज्ञान और पर्यावरण केन्द्र ने अपने प्रतिवेदन में यह उल्लेख किया है कि देश में वायु प्रदूषण के कारण प्रतिवर्ष 52,000 लोग अपना जीवन गंवा रहे हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने प्रतिवेदन की उपर्युक्त टिप्पणी का आकलन किया है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री: (श्री बाबू लाल मरांडी): (क) और (ख) एक गैर-सरकारी संगठन विज्ञान और पर्यावरण केन्द्र द्वारा प्रकाशित एक लेख में यह अनुमान लगाया गया है कि वायु प्रदूषण के कारण वर्ष 1995 में भारत के 36 नगरों में लगभग 52,000 कालपूर्व मौतें हुई। इन आंकड़ों की पुष्टि के लिए कोई निर्णायक आंकड़ा नहीं है।

(ग) पर्यावरणीय प्रदूषण को कम करने हेतु सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदम निम्नलिखित हैं:-

1. सरकार ने प्रदूषण के उपशमन हेतु एक विस्तृत पालिसी स्टेटमैंट तैयार किया है जिसमें विकास संबंधी योजना के पर्यावरणीय तथा आर्थिक पहलू के निवारक पहलुओं और प्रदूषण कम करने तथा स्वास्थ्य संबंधी पहलुओं हेतु स्वच्छ प्रौद्योगिकियों के विकास पर जोर दिया गया है।

2. प्रदूषण नियंत्रण उपकरण लगाने के लिए तथा भीड़-भाड़ वाले क्षेत्रों से उद्योगों के स्थानांतरण के लिए वित्तीय प्रोत्साहन दिए जा रहे हैं।

3. चार महानगरों दिल्ली, मुम्बई, कलकत्ता तथा चेन्नई में जून, 94 से सीसे की कम मात्रा वाले पैट्रोल की शुरूआत की गई थी। इसके पश्चात् उपरोक्त 4 शहरों में 1 अप्रैल, 95 से सीसा रहित पैट्रोल और कैटेलेटिक कन्वर्टरयुक्त वाहनों की शुरूआत की गई।

4. सरकार सीसा रहित पेट्रोल और कैटेलेटिक कन्वर्टरयुक्त को शुरू करने के लिए तथा अधिक साफ डीजल वाहनों में कम सल्फरयुक्त डीजल के प्रयोग के